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able to gather respecting hybridity among birds in a state of nature. These cases number 271, of which, however, some are doubtful. Of these 189 are crosses between species, and 82 between 'races' or 'varieties.' The total number of species involved is 166, and of varieties, 49. The evidence in each case is fully presented and its merits duly weighed. This work has occupied the author for ten years, and the amount of labor involved is certainly immense. The list of works and papers cited exceeds 1100, and the list of persons with whom the author has corresponded includes the names of nearly 500 more or less well-known naturalists, to whom reference is made in the course of the work. He further gives a list of 85 museums and collections with which he has been in communication, which contain hybrids or reputed hybrids, with an indication of the character of each specimen. These number 236, of which 52 are Passerine, 1 Ralline, 2 Columbine, 75 Anatine, and 106 Galline.

The work is divided into five parts, which have appeared at intervals from 1890 to the present time. Thus Part I, Gallinacés et Colombes (pp. 3-107), was issued in 1890; Part II, Palmipèdes et Echassiers (pp. 109-177), in 1891; Part III, Passereaux (pp. 179-451), in 1892<sup>1</sup>; Part IV, Accipitres et Perroquets (pp. 453-472), in 1893; Part V, Additions, Corrections et Examens d'après nature, pp. 473-873, in 1895. Part VI, Nouvelles Additions (pp. 907-990), as well the alphabetic list of authors cited (pp. 875-905), with the Introduction (pp. iii-clii) and contents are now added. The introduction gives an historical account of the subject, with a summary of the views of naturalists, ancient and modern, and discusses at length the value of fertility or infertility in hybrids as a test of specific identity.

As said in our review of Part III, the work has involved a vast amount of laborious research, and gives apparently an excellent summary of the literature of the subject. It therefore affords a mine of information for those who wish to pursue the subject of hybridity among birds.

The present volume is to be followed by a second on hybridity among insects and in fishes. The author also proposes to publish an annual supplement to the volume on birds, giving the new facts as they appear, and solicits aid in the work from other observers. He also has given notice that as soon as he receives enough subscriptions to warrant the undertaking he will begin the publication of life-size colored illustrations of about 200 of the hybrids he has made the subject of study. — J. A. A.

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<sup>1</sup> Reviewed in this journal, IX, 1892, pp. 382, 383.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### The Treatment of 'Nomina Nuda.'

EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

*Dear Sirs:*—I should like to ask, through the pages of 'The Auk,' for further expressions of opinion concerning the diverse treatment to which *nomina nuda* are now subjected. The matter is one of such importance to those who deal hand-to-hand with the many-sided aspects of nomenclature that every effort should be made to bring order out of the present chaos.

A *nomen nudum* is a name—zoölogical or botanical, generic, subgeneric, specific or subspecific—which has not been defined and published in accordance with the laws of binomial nomenclature. Such names are generally recognized as without status, and therefore as in no way invalidating the subsequent application of the same term to another organism, or to the organism intended by the original writer when this, as is often the case, can be ascertained. It naturally follows that a *nomen nudum*, having no real status in nomenclature, may be disregarded; and if a subsequent author, wittingly or unwittingly, uses the same name again the